

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2781

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USUN NEW YORK 1320

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1543

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, KS, KN

SUBJECT: SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE

REF: (A) SEOUL 1345; (B) SEOUL 1377; (C) SEOUL 1531 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: TRANSCRIPT OF SNCC MEETING INDICATES NORTH KOREAN POSITION ON SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE HAS BECOME SLIGHTLY MORE FLEXIBLE.
END SUMMARY.

1. TRANSCRIPT OF FEBRUARY 27 SNCC DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMEN'S MEETING SHOWS THAT CHANG KI-YONG FOLLOWED HIS PRESENTATION ON FISHING BOAT INCIDENT (REF A) WITH COMPLAINT AGAINST PYONGYANG STATEMENTS SUPPORTING REVOLUTION IN THE ROK. NORTH DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMAN YU COUNTERCHARGED THAT BOATS WERE ACTUALLY SPY SHIPS AND DEMANDED END TO SOUTH'S PROVOCATIVE ACTS AND PROVOCATIVE PROPAGANDA, INCLUDING ANTI-COMMUNIST RALLIES.

2. MOST INTERESTING PART OF MEETING DEALT WITH REORGANIZATION OF SNCC. YU REVIEWED NEED TO HOLD A POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM POLITICAL PARTIES AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS,
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THEN SUGGESTED THAT THIS CONFERENCE COULD BE ORGANIZED SEPARATELY

FROM THE SNCC, WHICH WOULD BE MAINTAINED ON PRESENT SCALE "AS REQUESTED BY (SOUTH) SIDE." CHANG RESPONDED THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS THE SAME AS THAT MADE BY NORTH BEFORE SNCC EXPANSION WAS DISCUSSED. STILL, HE SAID, HE UNDERSTOOD YU WAS PROPOSING IT AS AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION REFLECTING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE BY THE NORTH TOWARD RESUMPTION OF SNCC MEETINGS. HE SAID HE WOULD STUDY IT FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING WITH YU BUT ALSO REMINDED YU THAT SOUTH POSITION IS THAT SNCC SHOULD MEET FIRST AND THEN DISCUSS POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE.

3. TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING GENERALLY SUPPORTS VIEW REPORTED REF B, SINCE CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES CONNECTED WITH SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE, THAT NORTH ATTITUDE AT MEETING WAS MORE CONCILIATORY THAN IN PAST. PYONGYANG RADIO BROADCASTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING HAVE CAREFULLY REPEATED THE NORTH'S STATEMENT THAT THE SNCC CAN BE MAINTAINED ON ITS PRESENT SCALE, A POINT ALSO MADE BY KIM IL-SUNG IN HIS MARCH 4 SPEECH (REF C). IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE NORTH WOULD CONSENT TO A SNCC PLENARY SESSION WITHOUT PRIOR ROK AGREEMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT ON POLITICAL CONFERENCE.

4. AS REF C INDICATES, ROK PROPAGANDA OUTPUT HAS NOT REPORTED NORTH KOREAN SHIFT RE SNCC. HOWEVER THERE HAVE BEEN NO MORE ANTI-COMMUNIST RALLIES IN THE ROK FOLLOWING YU'S STRONG OBJECTION TO THESE AT THE FEBRUARY 27 MEETING. ONE DRP SOURCE HAS TOLD US THIS CHANGE IN TACTICS IS IN RESPONSE TO YU'S REQUEST TO END RALLIES (WE HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THIS). PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, ROKG OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO ATTACK THE NORTH FOR THE FISHING BOAT INCIDENT, FOR PYONGYANG'S PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS, AND FOR DISRUPTING THE DIALOGUE, AND PROPAGANDA OF BOTH SIDES HAS REMAINED AT A HIGH PITCH.
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